IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Method for monitoring ~~electric users, in particular~~ one or more household appliances belonging to a same household environment and connected to a network, wherein at least ~~an electric user is provided, comprising~~ one of the appliances includes an electronic control system having a microcontroller, memory means and interface means, ~~said electronic control system being programmed for generating information which relate to operating conditions of the electric user, said information being made available outside said control system through said interface means,~~ the method being characterized by the following steps:

the electronic control system for a given appliance ~~provides for~~

- generating diagnostic information, ~~being~~ that is representative of the efficiency status of components of the household appliance ~~user~~ and/or statistical information, ~~being~~ is representative of the wear status of components of the household appliance ~~user~~,

- ~~the electronic control system provides for~~ storing within said memory means, said diagnostic and/or statistical information, and

- ~~the electronic control system provides for~~ making the stored diagnostic and/or statistical information available on said network ~~outside said control system,~~ through said interface means; and.

a monitoring device that interfaces with said network, the monitoring device

- selecting, picking up, organizing and storing the diagnostic and/or statistical information available on said network from said electronic control systems, and device

- making said organized information explicit to a user or to other devices on or outside the network.

2. (currently amended) Method, according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said electronic control system ~~provides for~~ updates~~ing~~ in time the diagnostic and/or statistical information stored within said memory means.

3. (currently amended) Method, according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said diagnostic information relates to the operation quality of ~~said electric user~~the household appliance and components thereof, said operation quality being expressed through the value of a set of diagnostic parameters typical of the ~~the user~~ use of the household appliance.

4. (currently amended) Method, according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said statistical information relates to a history of the use~~r~~ of the household appliance from a viewpoint of the performed operations and/or functions and/or usage procedures of the household appliance.

5. canceled

6. (currently amended) Method, according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~further including said electronic control system ~~also provides for~~ generating, storing and making available on said network functional information ~~, being~~that is representative of the current operating status of the ~~electric user~~household appliance, and

said monitoring device further selecting, picking up, organizing and storing the functional information available on said network from said electronic controls systems, the monitoring device making said organized functional information explicit to a user or to other devices on or outside the network.

7. canceled

8. canceled

9. (currently amended) Method, according to claim ~~5~~1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said monitoring device provides for storing and/or updating within its own memory means the diagnostic and/or statistical information picked up from said network, before making the information or portions thereof~~m~~ explicit.

10. (currently amended) Method, according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said monitoring device provides for storing and/or updating within its own memory means the diagnostic, statistical and/or functional information picked up from said network, before making the information or portions thereof explicit ~~said diagnostic and/or statistical and/or functional information are made explicit within the household environment~~.

11. (currently amended) Method, according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least said diagnostic and/or statistical information are made explicit or transmitted outside the household environment.

12. (currently amended) Method, according to claim ~~12~~,11 ~~characterized in that~~wherein said diagnostic and/or statistical information are transmitted to a service and/or preventive maintenance center ~~for said electric user~~.

13. (currently amended) Method, according to claim ~~5~~6, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the step of selecti~~on~~ing ~~is provided of~~ is based on the type of information to be made explicit through said monitoring device.

14 – 18 canceled

19. System for monitoring ~~electric users, in particular~~ one or more household appliances belonging to a same household environment and connected to a network, the system including

~~wherein at least an electric users is provided, comprising an electronic control system having a microcontroller, memory means and interface means, said electronic control system being programmed for generating information which relate to operating conditions of the electric user, said information being made available outside said control system through said interface means, characterized in that said~~

in at least one of the household appliances an electronic control system that ~~is programmed for~~ generate~~s~~ing and store~~s~~ing ~~within said memory means~~ at least diagnostic information that is~~, being~~ representative of the efficiency status of components of the household appliance~~user~~ and/or statistical information that is~~, being~~ representative of the wear status of components of the household appliance~~user~~, and ~~that~~making the stored diagnostic and/or statistical information available on the network through an interface; and ~~means are provided for making the stored diagnostic and/or statistical information available outside said control system, through said interface means~~

a monitoring device that interfaces with the network, the monitoring device selecting, picking up, organizing and storing the diagnostic and/or statistical information available on the network from the respective electronic control systems and making the organized information explicit to a user or other device on or outside the network.

20. canceled

21. canceled

22. (currently amended) System, according to claim ~~20~~19, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said electronic control system ~~is programmed for~~ updates~~ing~~ in time the stored diagnostic and/or statistical information ~~stored within said memory means~~.

23. (currently amended) System, according to claim ~~20~~19, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said diagnostic information relates to the operation quality of said ~~electric user~~household appliance, said operation quality being expressed through the value of a set of diagnostic parameters typical of the use~~r~~ of the household appliance.

24. (currently amended) System, according to claim ~~20~~19, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said statistical information relate to a history of the use~~r~~ of the household appliance from a viewpoint of the performed operations and/or functions and/or the usage procedures.

25. (currently amended) System, according to claim ~~20~~19, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said electronic control system ~~is also programmed for~~also generate~~sing~~ functional information that is~~,~~ ~~being~~ representative of the current operating status of the household appliance~~electric user~~, and

said monitoring device selects, picks up, organizes, and stores said functional information and makes said organized information explicit.

26. canceled

27. canceled

28. (currently amended) System, according to claim ~~28~~19, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said monitoring device includes~~comprises its own~~ a memory ~~means~~for storing the diagnostic and/or statistical information transmitted on said network.

29. (currently amended) System, according to claim ~~27~~28, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said monitoring device further includes ~~comprises~~a display device.

30. (currently amended) System, according to claim ~~27~~19, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said monitoring device includes ~~comprises~~ a transmission means for transmitting said stored information to a remote site~~, in particular through Internet~~.

31. (currently amended) System, according to claim ~~30~~28, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said monitoring device further includes ~~comprises~~interaction means for selecting the type of diagnostic and/or statistical information to be displayed on said display device.

32. (currently amended) System, according to claim ~~31~~30, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said monitoring device further includes ~~comprise~~ interaction means for activating the transmission of said stored information.

33. (currently amended) System, according to claim ~~31~~30, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said transmission means comprise a modem.

34. canceled

35. canceled

36. (new) Method, according to claim 1, wherein the step of generating the diagnostic and/or statistical information for a given household appliance includes generating the the diagnotic and/or statistical information from one or more of an electric oven, a dishwasher, a refrigerator a laundry washer, a freezer, a cooking hob, and an exhaust hood.

37. (new) System, according to claim 19, wherein the household appliances include one or more of an electric oven, a dishwasher, a refrigerator a laundry washer, a freezer, a cooking hob, and an exhaust hood.